

APRIL 1961

MAGAZINE OF THE



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

PRICE 6d

# SPASTICS NEWS



# NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY CENTRES

## NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

### THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Dene Park, Tonbridge, Kent.  
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.

Headmaster:

H. B. Davies, Esq., B.Sc. (Econ.).

Chairman of the Board of Governors:  
Douglas Delarue, Esq., J.P.

Secondary Modern and Grammar Education for Spastics of 11 years and over.  
Accommodation 66.

### IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.  
Telephone: Holmrook 242.

Headmaster:

A. Lubran, Esq., M.R.S.T., A.A.O.T.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
J. D. Herd, Esq.

Education for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.

Accommodation: 34.

### THE "SHERRARDS" TRAINING CENTRE

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.  
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2125.

Principal: E. L. Knight, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:

The Hon. Lady Bowes Lyon.

Vocational Training Centre for young adult Spastics.

Accommodation: 31.

### THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentyrch, Nr. Cardiff.  
Telephone: Pentyrch 397.

Headmistress:

Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Miss M. B. Jowett, M.B.E.

Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.

Accommodation: 49.

### HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.  
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.

Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.  
Assessment Centre for Spastic children between 5 and 13 years.

Accommodation: 24.

### DARESBUY HALL RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.  
Telephone: Moore 359.

Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
George Evans, Esq.

Residential Centre for Male Spastics aged from 16 to 35 years.

Accommodation: 26.

### THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington,  
Nr. Stamford. Telephone: Duddington 212.

Headmaster:

R. A. Pedder, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Eric Smith, Esq.

Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.

Accommodation: 60, 12 Day Pupils.

### COOMBE FARM RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.

Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
R. Meek, Esq.

Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 16 to 25 years. Accommodation: 41.

### PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.

Telephone: Kelvedon 482.

Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:

Miss Mary Ruck, R.R.C.

Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 25 to 40 years. Accommodation: 31.

### THE GRANGE:

High Street, Kelvedon.

Accommodates 13 Spastics over the age of 40 years.

### NATIONAL HOLIDAY HOTELS ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.

Telephone: Southend 476351.

Manageress: Miss M. Burden.

Chairman of the Management Committee:

H. F. Savage, Esq., J.P.

Hotel for Spastics and accompanying relatives or friends. Accommodation: 19

Write to Manageress for bookings.

### S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.

Telephone: Bexhill 1491.

Chairman of the Management Committee:

David Jacobs, Esq.

Manager: G. H. Marsh, Esq.

Accommodation: 23.

## LOCAL CENTRES AND CLINICS

In close co-operation with Local Authorities and/or Hospital Management Committees, the following Groups provide or assist special schools and/or treatment centres:

Hull	Portsmouth
Northampton	Reading
Nottingham	Southend-on-Sea
Pontefract	Swindon

Working independently, the following Groups have set up special schools or treatment centres:

Birkenhead	Leicester
Bolton	Plymouth
Cheltenham	Stockport

Operating entirely by voluntary contribution, the following Groups have treatment centres with or without nursery

classes. Some of these centres operate every day, others only part time:

Bedford	North Stafford
Bridgwater	(Stoke)
Chesterfield	Oldham
Croydon	Oxford
Epping Forest	Poole and Bournemouth
Gillingham	Sale
Grimsby	South West Middlesex
Ipswich	South West Surrey
Luton	Swansea
Maidstone	Urmston
North London	Wycombe and
	District
	York

The following Groups have, what might be termed, special occupation centres and,

in some cases, treatment is available together with speech therapy:

Cardiff	Ilford
Brighton	Scunthorpe
Bristol	Southampton
Crewe	Southend
Dudley	

What might be termed Welfare Departments, mainly designed to assist older Spastics, are operated by the following:

Bradford	Nottingham
Halifax	Widnes
N.W. London	

Work centres, varying in scope have been opened for adults by the following:

Bedford	Kingston-on-Thames
Croydon	N.W. Kent (Erith)
Central Middlesex	Stockport
Central Surrey	Swansea

Holiday homes are run by the following Groups:—

Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness, at Allonby, Maryport; Hull at Bridlington.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Editor: Margaret Gill

Vol. VIII No. 4	April, 1961
For your Diary ... ..	3
Meeting the Challenge ... ..	4
From the Mailbag ... ..	5
Country Wide ... ..	6
The Causes of Delay in Speaking, by Dr. M. E. Morley ... ..	9
News in Brief ... ..	10
Pinebank—The Centre at Chesterfield	12
Assistance for Spastics ... ..	14
House Magazines ... ..	15
Mainly for Women ... ..	16
Employment Corner ... ..	18
Crossword Puzzle No. 12 ... ..	18
I Can Manage, by Dora Howell—serial	19
Group Alterations ... ..	22
Classified Advertisements ... ..	22

## FRONT COVER

**N**O WONDER the residents at Prested Hall are smiling today. They have just received a wonderful gift in the luxury class, a mobile machine which goes under the name of the Sprite Electri Caddie.

Luxury or not, it's being put to very good use at our residential centre in Essex as you can see from the photograph. You can read about it on page 6.

### SOLUTION TO MARCH CROSSWORD

ACROSS		DOWN	
1. Device	17. Rank	1. Dwarf	13. Stiltedly
7. Flemish	18. Pilau	2. Verdi	21. Omaha
8. Airgun	19. Drip	3. Chuck	22. Crypt
9. Fine	20. Moscow	4. Ultimatum	23. Worry
10. Frisks	24. Reed	5. Ambergis	
14. Rare	25. Lawyer	6. Esperanto	
15. Twang	26. Himself	11. Reservoir	
16. Oslo	27. Pastry	12. Stop Press	

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**MR. W. M. HARGREAVES**, the Industrial Liaison Officer, will be speaking at meetings in the following towns:

- April 5th, 1 p.m. Rotary Club of Bootle and Litherland.
- April 10th-14th. Tour of Ministry of Labour, N. Western Region.
- April 20th. Exhibition of Work done by disabled people, where the N.S.S. will have a display.  
7.30 p.m. Letchworth D.A.C.
- April 24th, 7.30 p.m. A.G.M. Brierley Hill Committee, for the Physically Handicapped, Civic Building, Brierley Hill.
- April 27th, 2.15 p.m. Matlock D.A.C., Derbyshire.
- May 4th, 8 p.m. Hertfordshire Spastics Society, St. Albans.
- May 23. St. Rose's Special (PH) School, Stroud, Glouce.

**MISS SHIRLEY KEENE**, the Society's lecturer has the following engagements:

- April 4th, 2.30 p.m. Young Wives' Club  
7.30 p.m. Harmondsworth Women's Institute, Vicarage Hall, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex.
- April 5th, 3 p.m. King Farm Congregational Women's Fellowship, Gravesend, Kent.
- April 6th, 7.30 p.m. Coffee evening given by Matlock Ladies' Circle, Matlock, Derbyshire (venue not known).
- April 10th, 7 p.m. Sheffield Branch Royal College Midwives, Nether Edge Hospital, Sheffield 11.
- April 11th, 8 p.m. Datchet Women's Institute, Datchet, Bucks.

April 12th, 8 p.m. St. James-at-Bowes Young Wives' Club, Arcadian Gardens, High Road, Wood Green, London N.22.

April 13th, 2.30 p.m. Willingdon Women's Institute, Memorial Hall, Willingdon, Sussex.

April 18th, 3 p.m. St. John's Congregation Church Women's Fellowship, Church Hall, Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

April 19th, 2.30 p.m. St. Mary (Merton) Young Wives' Group, London S.W.19.

April 24th, 8 p.m. Young Wives' Group, Leeds Y.W.C.A., 9 Lovell Street, Leeds.

April 25th, 8 p.m. Miscellany Group, Leeds Y.W.C.A., 9 Lovell Street, Leeds.

April 26th, 3 p.m. Inner Wheel Club of Erith, Royal Oak Hotel, Erith, Kent.

April 27th, 7.30 p.m. Parent Teachers' Association, Barrow Primary School, Barrow, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

May 1st, 1 p.m. Rotary Club Tunbridge Wells (held over from Cadena Cafe, Mount Pleasant, March) Tunbridge Wells.

8 p.m. Young Wives' Club, The Methodist Church, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex.

May 2nd, 9 a.m. Woolmer Hill County Secondary School, Haslemere, Surrey.

3 p.m. Eltham Congregation Church Women's League, Court Road, Eltham, London S.E.9.

May 3rd, 7.30 p.m. Sale Town Hall, Sale, Cheshire.

May 4th, 2.30 p.m. Toft Mothers' Union, Toft, Knutsford, Cheshire.

May 8th, 3 p.m. Women's Fellowship, St. Andrew's Church, Willesden Green, London W.10.

May 9th, 2.30 p.m. Effington Park Methodist Church Wives' Fellowship, Worthing, Sussex.

May 10th, 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Road Methodist Church Wives' Fellowship, Worthing, Sussex.

May 11th, 7.30 p.m. Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society, Social Club.

May 12th, 2 p.m. Cheshire County Training College, Crewe.

May 16th, 2.45 p.m. Mutley & Peverell Branch Women's Co-operative Guild, Plymouth Co-operative Society's Education Officers, Western College Road, Mannamead, Plymouth.

May 18th, 1 p.m. Rotary Club of Middlesbrough, Spark's Cafe Royal, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

May 20th, 2.45 p.m. Norfolk & Norwich Spastics Association A.G.M.

May 24th, 2.30 p.m. Young Wives' Group, London City Mission Hall, Portland Road, London S.E.25.

May 25th, 2.30 p.m. Bromley Common Methodist Church Young Wives' Club, the Church Hall, Bloomfield Road, Bromley, Kent.

7.30 p.m. Gravesend Ladies' Circle, Central Avenue Hotel, Gravesend, Kent (to be confirmed).

May 29th, 8 p.m. Norwich Branch Royal College Midwives, the Maternity Clinic, 4 Earlham Road, Norwich.

May 30th, 3 p.m. Albany Park Baptist Women's Fellowship, Stansted Crescent, Bexley, Kent.

8 p.m. St. John's Wood Mothers' Union, 10 Blenheim Road, London N.W.8.

May 31st, 2.30 p.m. St. Luke's Women's Fellowship, West Ealing, London W.6.

[If any reader would like the services of the lecturers at any specific meeting, please write in to LECTURERS, NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY, 28 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.—Ed.].

# NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948

28 FITZROY SQUARE  
LONDON, W.1.

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Neurological Department, Guy's Hospital  
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## MEETING THE CHALLENGE

EVERY eight hours a spastic child is born—and there will be two more bewildered parents to be helped and guided. They need to be lifted from their despair and made to feel that they are not alone in their troubles.

This is where the spastics groups throughout the country can play a vital part.

It is not really enough to wait until the parents of these handicapped children wander in to a group meeting or drop a letter to the secretary. We must go out and find them. We must tell them that there is hope not helplessness, aid not antipathy, a future not frustration.

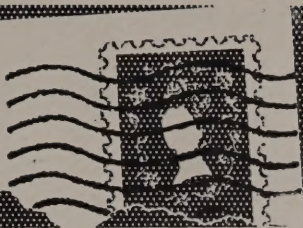
We must show them our schools, our centres, our sheltered workshops. Show them what can be done to encourage, coax and help their children. Let them feel that normal life for them has not ended.

In asking groups to meet this challenge the Chairman has added: "We must never mark time, never rest on our laurels. We should be ashamed that we have heard of spastics and parents in need of help, people living in the area of an active group, only because they saw a recent television programme."

Prof J D BOYD, MD, MSc  
Anatomy School, University of Cambridge  
Dr J H CROSLAND, MRCS, D Phys Med  
30 Weymouth Street, London  
Prof J N CUMINGS, MD, FRCP  
National Hospital, Queen Square, London  
Prof P M DANIEL, MA, MB  
Department of Neuropathology, Maudsley Hospital,  
London  
Dr P R EVANS, MD, MSc, FRCP  
Department of Child Health, Guy's Hospital, London  
MISS N GIBBS, MA  
Child Guidance Training Centre, Osnaburgh Street,  
London  
Prof R S ILLINGWORTH, MD, FRCP  
Department of Child Health, University of Sheffield  
Dr J D KERSHAW, MD, DPH  
Public Health Department, Colchester  
Prof ALAN MONCRIEFF, CBE, MD, FRCP,  
FRCOG  
Institute of Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children,  
Gt. Ormond Street, London

Prof W C W NIXON, MD, FRCS  
Obstetric Hospital, University College Hospital,  
London  
Dr G PAMPIGLIONE, MD, MRCP  
EEG Dept, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great  
Ormond Street, London  
Prof L S PENROSE, MA, MD, FRS  
Galton Laboratory, University College, London  
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Department of Physiology, University of Oxford  
Prof B S PLATT, CMG, PhD, MB  
Human Nutrition Research Unit, National Institute  
for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London  
Dr D D REID, MD, PhD  
Department of Epidemiology and Vital Statistics,  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
Prof JAMES WALKER, MD, FRCOG  
Department of Midwifery and Gynaecology, Univer-  
sity of St. Andrews, Scotland  
Prof O L ZANGWILL, MA  
Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge

from the Mailbag



## IN DISTRESS

Dear Editor,

The following is an extract from a letter received in this office, and is typical of the situation that exists in the homes of the severe mentally handicapped spastic child for whom there is no hope except committal to a State Mental Home, and with a waiting list of perhaps years the agonies experienced by the mother are difficult to imagine, but must be beyond human endurance, as she knows her efforts are all in vain.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY G. KNIGHT,

Eastern Regional Officer, N.S.S.

P.S.—I would add that help has been given.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask you if you could help me with regard to my son P—— who is a spastic aged 13 years, and as helpless as a new born baby.

He spends his life in a spinal carriage, day and night, and has just got over pneumonia which has left him with a prolapse of the bowels. As I have to keep him packed up all the time it means buying napkins (39s. a dozen), and, of course, the inside napkins must be disposed of when I change him. There is also powder, and cotton wool which I can only get at 1s. a time from my doctor, special food which he has to have because he can only feed out of a bottle, and then a fire day and night as he lives in one room all the time.

I wonder if it is possible for you to help me.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs. P.C.D.

## WORTH A FORTUNE!

Dear Editor,

A short while ago my husband and I were at a famous children's hospital in London, having brought our severely handicapped son (who is a pupil at one of the Society's schools) to pay his yearly visit to the specialist in charge of his case.

We were all somewhat overawed in the presence of several members of the medical profession who were at the interview. However the ice was broken by our son, who, when asked by the doctor if he was quite happy at his special school, replied, "I wouldn't leave even if anyone offered me £100." This caused a great deal of amusement.

Although I doubt if our son's feelings were quite the same on his first day back of the new term, I agree with the doctor who remarked, that of all the varied recommendations of special schools he had heard, this was the best ever!

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) P. M. WOLFF,  
West Bridgford, Nottm.

## COED-EMRYS

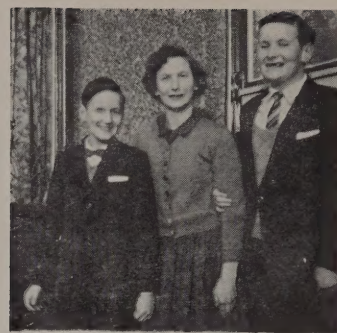
Dear Editor,

I was very interested to see the reference in the February issue to the Coed Emrys Private Hotel in Colwyn Bay. Your readers may like to know that we have used this hotel for parties of disabled people out of season and find it very satisfactory. Miss Osborne, whom I have met personally, does everything possible for the comfort and pleasure of her guests and certainly deserves all possible support for her courage in this venture.

May I add that I always find the News extremely interesting and read it carefully every month.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss B. J. BALSHAW,  
Development Officer,  
The Cripples' Help Society, Manchester.

Three children of a proud mother



## PROUD MOTHER

Dear Editor,

When my two eldest children were babies I was told that nothing could be done for them, that they would never walk or talk and would be a burden all their lives. I then had another son who was also spastic, and it was suggested that I couldn't possibly care for all my five children at home in view of the fact that three of them were handicapped.

Now happily I have managed to disprove this argument. It took many years of hard work, but my three spastic children now lead full and useful lives. When I look at my family I am so very glad that I kept them together.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) D. WALKER,  
Preston.

*Yours ...  
for a better letter*

**Harley Bond**

a high quality

notepaper



PADS FROM 10d  
ENVELOPES FROM 6d

MDH 1964



## TRANSPORT-DE-LUXE FOR SPASTICS WONDERFUL GIFT FOR PRESTED HALL

A VISITOR to the residential centre for adult spastics at Prested Hall, Kelvedon, Essex, no longer needs to make the long walk up the drive to the house these days. More likely than not, he will be greeted at the gate by a smiling spastic driving the centre's new mode of transport, a Sprite Electri Caddie.

This expensive mobile machine, usually seen on a golf course transporting tired golfers around the greens, has been gifted to Prested Hall by Mrs. Haussauer, widow of the late Mr. Louis Paul Haussauer, Managing Director of the Aidas Electric Company in Northolt, Middlesex. Mr. Haussauer, who was himself handicapped, though not a spastic, had always a thought for others. When he died recently Mrs. Haussauer decided that he would have wanted his Electri Caddie to be used to benefit other handicapped people. She therefore presented the machine for the use of the resident spastics at Prested Hall.

And what a joy it has added to their lives. From the moment it arrived young Peter Watson, son of the Warden, Mr. J. H. Watson, was kept busy driving his spastic friends round the grounds and teaching them how to control the Caddie. Now one or two are getting proficient.

Says Mr. Watson: "The grounds of Prested Hall are ideally suited to the use of a Sprite Caddie Car. We have a drive round the estate through orchard, shrubbery and lawn which is a mile long. Many of our spastics have never seen the full extent of our estate. We always think in terms of us widening the world in which they live. In addition to the fun of a drive, a larger world is now their's, thanks to the Sprite."

### Jenny has joined the Craig-y-Parc Family

The staff at Craig-y-Parc School near Cardiff can be heard whistling a new tune these days—"The Donkey Serenade". And it's all because of Jenny, a handsome little donkey who has joined the pet family of a dog, cats, goldfish, hamsters and budgerigars, at the school, to the delight of the children, and also brought into being the "Donkey Club".

The story of Jenny goes back to a bleak Friday morning in February. There was illness around, and the weather was depressing. Then the boys and girls were summoned from the classrooms. Suddenly, the clouds lifted, happy smiles appeared on little faces and hands were clapped in wonder. For there, up the drive, walked a little donkey, escorted in her car by the headmistress, Mrs. C. M. Kearslake. Jenny had come home.

So the "Donkey Club" came into being. Seven of the boys formed themselves into a team to look after their new pet. Her day begins with her "early morning cup of tea", a bucket of water. Then she has breakfast, one of the boys fetches her little bowl, filled with round nuts of oats, another brings two wastepaper baskets of hay. Jenny then grazes in the vegetable garden till lunchtime.

After lunch the "Donkey Club" take charge again. They put on her halter, and it's "ride the donkey" time for the children.

At five o'clock Jenny goes to bed. The boys prepare her sawdust and a contented little donkey settles down for the night.

Today there is great excitement at Craig-y-Parc for Jenny has whispered a secret. She is due to foal in August.

There is just one thing lacking in this happy story. Jenny has no saddle.

So if anyone has a saddle they are not using . . . ?

### Italian Fashion Designer at Coombe Farm

Signora Zoe Fontana, one of Italy's leading fashion designers and a member of a family which has done immense work to help spastic children in her own country, recently visited Coombe Farm.

Fontana fashion shows have been mounted both in Italy and America to collect money for this work and the Italian Government, impressed with the efforts of the three sisters, have now allocated the sum of 450 million lire (about £1½ million) to establish a permanent rehabilitation centre for spastics in Red Cross City, Rome.

At Coombe Farm, Signora Fontana saw the warm and homely atmosphere which has been created for 41 residential spastics aged 16 to 25, most of them heavily handicapped. Although Coombe Farm is neither a training nor a rehabilitation centre in the strict sense of the word, physiotherapy, speech therapy and an organised working day together with the social stimulus of community life makes it possible for the residents to enjoy a full and vigorous existence.

### Note: The Arundel Hotel

Owing to the difficulties of providing a houseparent service the Arundel Hotel regrets that until further notice it will be restricted to accepting bookings from accompanied or independent spastics only.

education.

Forty-seven-year-old Mr. Tsujimura, who is a specialist in education of handicapped children, has spent his whole working life in the field of child welfare and education. He is on a six-week visit to this country as a guest of the British Council to study British methods of teaching in special schools for handicapped children. During the course of his stay he will probably be visiting some of the Society's other schools.

### World Radio Programmes

The sixty-six pupils at the Thomas Delarue School are now listening to broadcasts from all over the world on a marine radio receiver. Given to the school by the London company of Redifon Ltd., this powerful instrument, which has completed 12 years' service on board ship, has been completely overhauled and put into new condition. It weighs 91 pounds.

"We are most grateful for this gift," said Mr. H. B. Davies, headmaster of Delarue School. "Not only will it enable those students learning Spanish, French and German to listen to broadcasts from those countries, but it will also be very valuable to us in our recently-opened science department."

side young men who have no disabilities, and in some cases outshine them in straight competition.

Simon, who is now working for the Forestry Commission in Scotland, has also distinguished himself by gaining acceptance for entry to Edinburgh University in October next, where he will study agriculture and forestry, having qualified for admission while at the Thomas Delarue School.

### Overseas Visitors for Sherrards

A party of overseas doctors, nurses and medical students, who are at present studying or on post-graduate courses in and around London, visited Sherrards one afternoon recently.

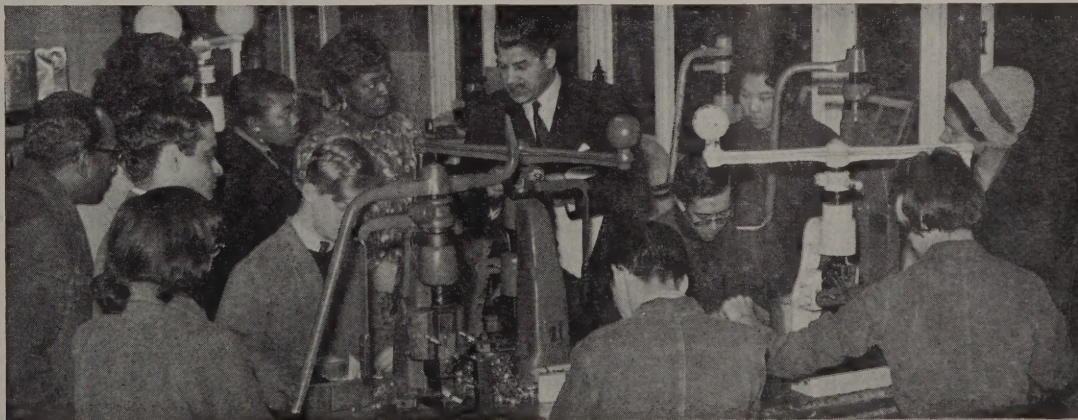
This was one of many visits which are arranged by the British Council for overseas students in this country. In fact, during the Easter term about 71 trips are organised. The visitors—ten in all—came from Nigeria, Colombia, Singapore, Turkey, Sierra Leone, Trinidad, Formosa, Ceylon, India and Greece.

Every member of the party found something to interest them at Sherrards, the only one centre of its kind in the world where in its four years of existence, more than 40 pupils have been trained for the engineering, woodworking and printing trades.

The past year has seen the start of a building programme that will bring the number of resident trainees up to 66 by the Spring of 1962.

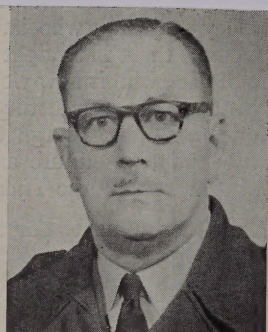
In the photograph the young people are absorbed in watching the trainees at work on the fly presses and listen avidly to Mr. E. L. Knight, the principal (centre).

*Courtesy: "The Times"*



Our box collections supervisor at H.Q., Mr. Albert W. Overland, was honoured recently. He was presented to H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of their visit to Poplar Town Hall on Wednesday, March 15.

Councillor Overland is chairman of the council's finance and policy committees and was mayor in 1940-1. Outside his work in the Appeals Dept., Mr. Overland leads a busy life in voluntary social welfare, being chairman of Poplar and Stepney War Pensions committee and youth committee, and the commanding officer of the Air Training Corps. He also serves on local and national bodies where the benefit of advice from his wide experience proves useful.



### Model Galleon

Remember Mr. W. Black from Preston and his model galleon (see January issue)? Well recently he presented it to the Preston and District Spastics Group.

This vessel rocks and rolls, and plays a tune—all at the drop of a coin, and there are 10 tunes to choose from.

It is planned to put the galleon in a cinema or store in the centre of Preston, where it is hoped it will attract the public and encourage them to contribute to the Spastics Group.

### FREE TIME

#### Cardiff and District

The Cardiff and District Spastic Association have a smart new Minibus—smart because the employees of the firm of distributors gave their time freely and willingly to spray and do the lettering for the Association's new acquisition. In the picture are (left to right), Mr. D. R. Edwards, Chairman of Tenovus, a group of ten Cardiff business men who raise vast sums of money for charities; Mr. George Thomas, M.P., President of the Association, who is seen receiving the keys of the bus from Mr. Williams, Commercial Sales Manager of James Howell & Co. Ltd., the Austin distributors for South Wales.

#### North-West Kent

A lucky group who have been presented with a minibus is the North West Kent Spastics Group. Recently the Mayor of Erith, Councillor Mrs. F. West, presented an Austin Omnicoach to their chairman Mr. R. C. Payne. The presentation was made possible through the combined efforts of the Inner Wheel Club of Erith, the Erith Round Table, and the Rotary Club of Erith, who worked and surprised everyone by having the coach ready for the road six months before they anticipated.

This Group received a further gift for use at their centre. This time an invalid chair and two walking aids in memory of Rotarian Fred Ling from his daughter Mrs. F. Grover.

*Courtesy: Western Mail and Echo*



## THE CAUSES OF DELAY IN SPEAKING

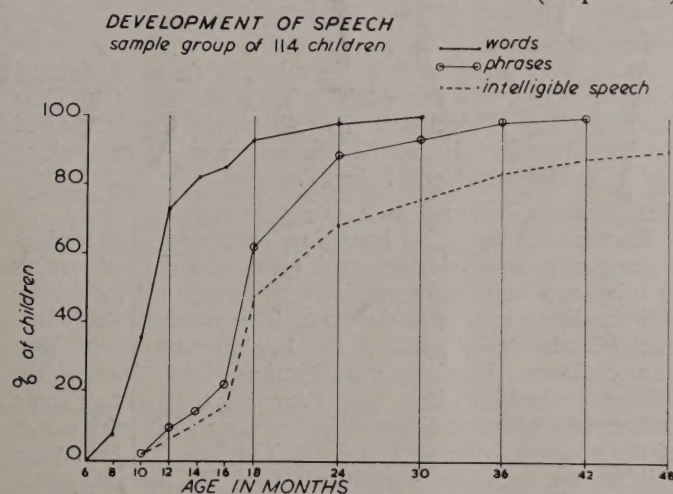
by M. E. Morley, D.Sc., F.C.S.T.

**DELAY** in speaking may result from (1) a severe or partial hearing defect, (2) mental retardation, (3) receptive-expressive, or expressive aphasia, and (4) occasionally may be due to disturbances of an emotional or environmental nature.

The age of onset of speech in the childhood community was observed during a study of the development of speech of "1,000 children in Newcastle-upon-Tyne". (1 and 2).

A wide range of normality was found for the first use of (a) single words, and (b) phrases.

	Average Age	Range	Peak
Words ...	12 months	6 -30 months	9 -12 months (66 per cent)
Phrases ...	18 months	10-44 months	17-24 months (67 per cent)



Two-thirds of the children had some degree of defective articulation at first, one-third being unintelligible except to close relatives. Four per cent were still unintelligible at five years of age.

A hearing defect interferes with the development of speech, except to some extent through lip reading, because the child cannot understand what he cannot hear adequately and cannot imitate the sounds of speech accurately. If the hearing defect is severe, speech development may be entirely absent; if partial, the delay in speaking and the articulation used, will be, in general, related to the degree and type of the hearing deficiency.

Where there is mental retardation and sub-normal intelligence there is reduced thought content, limited comprehension and need for language. Other factors excluded, the use of language corresponds approximately to the level of intelligence.

Emotional and environmental causes of delay in speaking usually affect the child's use of speech as a means of communication with others, rather than its development. This may first become apparent after the initial onset of speech and be indicative of a personality disturbance, rarely limited to the use of speech. In some cases it may be the child's reaction to a delay in speaking due to other causes.

Receptive-expressive, and expressive aphasia, or the failure to develop understanding for, and the use of speech, occurs when there has been damage to, or failure of development of those cerebral processes essential for speech. These are not fully understood, but it is becoming increasingly apparent that, whilst such conditions can be related to neonatal cerebral damage, due to trauma or kernicterus, similar language conditions are found in isolation where there is no apparent general motor disability such as cerebral palsy.

Some children who develop speech later than the normal age range may yet have only a transient developmental aphasia. If comprehension is adequate, and there is no severe motor disability, they can benefit from education in a normal school, even if the use of speech is delayed.

For example, of 74 children who had used no words by the age of three years and no phrases by four years, 72 had adequate comprehension. Fifty of these developed the use of speech between four and six years of age. Eight had an intelligence level within the normal range but below the average, and in these the severe delay in speaking was not proportional to their intelligence. Sixteen of the 72 children had a more prolonged delay in speaking in association with intelligence levels ranging from 91 to 136.

Where there is a severe language delay there is normally a subsequent limitation in the use of language throughout school life, and ability to learn to read and to write may also be affected. Ten of the 16 children with the more severe speech retardation also had a subsequent reading disability.

The onset of speech is frequently delayed in children with cerebral palsy. Here there is a wide age range for the first use of words and phrases. In addition, some of these children have a partial hearing defect or general mental retardation. Apart from those who have a defect in comprehension for speech due to a hearing deficiency, a serious failure to understand speech seems to be less common in these children than is the failure to use spoken language, an expressive aphasia being more closely associated with the general motor disability.

The age of speech development in 32 children with a severe motor disability who were attending a cerebral palsy school was as follows:—

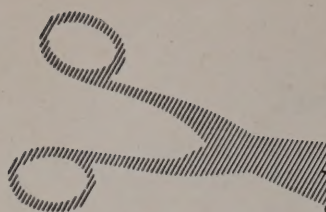
	Average Age	Range
Words ...	20 months	8 months to 12½ years
Phrases ...	2½ years	1 - 12 years

It is apparent that whilst a few of these children began to speak at the normal age, many had a severe retardation in the onset of speech, and there was also a subsequent limited use of language in those where onset was severely delayed. Onset of speech was also later in those children who subsequently had a dysarthria, or difficulty in the use of articulation due to spasticity or athetosis of the muscles required for articulation.

Articulation requires rapid, easy movements of the lips, tongue, soft palate and jaw, and co-ordination of these movements with those for respiration and for laryngeal tone.

In 17 children who had a severe articulatory defect but

(Continued on page 18)



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A working committee was ap-  
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to elect representatives to the  
place in the third week in March  
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delegate from each country  
which will then have been colle-

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Dublin:**—Edited from the *Sunday Press*, Dublin

Distressed by the way spastic youngsters “just sat and stared into space”, a pretty, blonde American housewife has founded a unique recreation centre where even the bed-ridden ride horse-back. With the help of a \$15,000 grant and the San Francisco Park and Recreation Department, Mrs. Janet Pomeroy of San Francisco started the centre in an old swimming pool building near the ocean. She now has 180 children and adults participating at the centre which is staffed by two full time workers and more than 60 volunteers. Ramps and rails have been installed because all of the residents are severely handicapped. “But they all go horseback riding—even the bed-ridden,” said Mrs. Pomeroy. “How? Why, we hold them on if they can’t stay on by themselves.”

**Croydon:**—Edited from the *Croydon Advertiser*

Cinemagoers at the A.B.C. Croydon were recently treated to the sight of a man cutting off 14 days’ growth of beard with an electric razor. This was the climax of a competition being held in aid of the Croydon and District branch of the N.S.S. Entrants had to guess the length of time the beard took to come off, with what the makers describe as “the world’s fastest shaver”. We presume the atmosphere was electric . . . !

**Sheffield:**—Edited from the *Nursing Mirror*, London

A second midwife has been appointed to help with a research project into the management of pregnancy, being undertaken in the Department of Obstetrics in the University of Sheffield. The three year project, financed by the N.S.S., involves taking case histories of about 1,000 women a year, following them through pregnancy and labour, and assessment of the baby up to ten months.

**Norfolk:**—Edited from *Eastern Evening News*, Norwich

Forty armed men have raised over £36 towards the £20,000 target for 1961 set by the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association by selling off a day’s “bag” from a shoot in the Wymondham and Deopham area. The proceeds from the sale were sent to the association, which plans to build an area centre for the benefit of spastic children in the Norfolk and Norwich district.

**Essex:**—Edited from the *Halstead Gazette*

Two hundred people went dancing to Johnny Sullivan and his band, in aid of the Essex Group of the N.S.S., in the Memorial Hall, Castle Heddingham. The hall had been attractively decorated by the organisers and friends, and balloons and streamers were released at the appropriate moment. Over £70 was raised.

**Keighley:**—Edited from the *Keighley News*

With fashion making big news at the moment, the N.S.S. is also not to be found lacking on this score. Over 150 people were present to see the spring collection of clothes and millinery at Oakwood Country Club, during a show held by John Bywater of Bingley. Mrs. C. Clifton, projects secretary

of the N.S.S., arrived from London specially to open the show.

**Sunderland:**—Edited from the *Sunderland Echo*

A 16-year-old art student, Leslie Burn, who is a spastic, designed and painted a two-foot wide badge to mark the official opening of the new Southwick premises of the Sunderland Police Boys’ Club. Leslie, spent many evenings working on the badge to get it ready in time for the official opening. He has been a member of the club for about four years, and is now in charge of a trade layout, on which a number of club members are working.

**Plymouth:**—Edited from the *South Devon Journal*

As the phoenix arises from the ashes, so the newly-formed Kingston Gay Nineties Club arises from the Old-Time Dancing Club. To celebrate its re-birth the Club organised a whist drive and dance, the proceeds from which went to the Dame Hannah Rogers School for spastics.

**East Sussex:**—Edited from the *Evening Argus*, Brighton

Once a week for a few hours in a small room in Hastings a group of voluntary helpers work gently and patiently trying to bring new hope and fresh interests to some of the spastic children living in or near the town. This room, in St. Mary-in-the-Castle Parish Hall, is the headquarters of the East Sussex Group (Hastings and District). Mrs. Bowen, the voluntary organiser feels that there must be many more parents with spastic children who are unaware of the existence of the group and the work it does. They want to help these children but can only extend their work if a suitable house or large ground-floor flat, which could be rented at a reasonable cost, could be found. Mrs. Bowen said she would like to hold training sessions for at least three days a week.

**Maidenhead:**—Edited from the *Maidenhead Advertiser*

Because they had heard so many complaints that Maidenhead was a dull place, a group of local bachelors formed themselves into a committee at the end of last summer with the intention of showing that those who wished, could do something to provide their own entertainment. It has taken them some time to start livening things up, but recently they held a grand ball at the Compleat Angler, Marlow. All profits from the ball were donated to the Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group.

“We have no other activities planned yet,” says Mr. Kelly the committee chairman, “but there are several under discussion. One thing we do hope is that the spinsters will take up the challenge and perhaps arrange a summer ball.” The battle of the sexes is on!

**Epping Forest:**—Edited from the *Leyton Express and Independent*

Mrs. E. M. Woodward, chairman of the Epping Forest and District Branch of the N.S.S., spoke to members of the Woodford Young Liberals about the work of the local society. After her talk, a collection was taken in aid of the spastics’ clinic at Buckhurst Hill.

**Stockport:**—Edited from the *Buxton Advertiser*

Recently the employees of Renold Chains Ltd., Precision Chain Engineers of Didsbury, handed over to the Stockport East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society the part proceeds of a collection at the works for the purchase of some extra amenity. It was decided to buy a ciné-camera, with which it is intended to record, at regular intervals, the progress of the 34 children who attend Granville House.

At the end of each 12 months, if this is the period decided upon, parents in addition to staff, will be shown films of the change in condition, freedom of movement, and general health of the children.

**Bedworth:**—Edited from the *Bedworth News*

He is always "popping" somewhere, giving his services to the cause of charity, and now at the age of 21, Lance Loveridge of 85 Wootton Street, Bedworth, has four years of his evening stage career behind him.

Lance, who is popular with many concert parties, is a pop singer who began with guitar and formed his own style (without the help of Elvis the Pelvis). He has done much charity work in the concert field for spastics, the blind and leprosy relief, developing his own routines in the world of "pop". "Whatever it is, if it is for a good cause, then I like doing the job," Lance declared.

**Northampton:**—Edited from the *Mercury and Herald*, Northampton

A dividend of £90 7s. 4d. was earned for the Northampton and County Branch of the N.S.S. by purchases at Wellingborough Co-operative shops last half-year under the share number 77. This number is now in the name of the branch vice-chairman Mr. Frank Munday and is used, instead of their own number, by hundreds of members.

**Eastbourne:**—Edited from the *Eastbourne Gazette*

Members of the Club Continental, a coffee club in Terminus Road, have collected £90 in recent weeks for the N.S.S. —nearly trebling last year's effort.

**Oxford:**—Edited from the *Oxford Mail*

Flying high to aid Oxford spastics was the White Tiger Moth which was circling over the town. This was all in aid of "Mr. Pastry's" Oxford appeal for spastics, and "Mr. Pastry" was at Oxford Airport to give the plane a send off. People in the town were kept busy trying to guess the height of the plane.

**Ulverston:**—Edited from the *Barrow News*,

Films of work being done for spastics were shown to members of the Ulverston and District Branch of the Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society, at the Coronation Hall, Ulverston. Introducing the films, Mr. L. Stephenson, secretary and welfare officer of the society, spoke of the society's latest proposed venture. This is to be a residential sheltered employment centre for adult spastics. There will be egg production and greenhouse cultivation. Mr. Stephenson said that plans were well ahead, and the scheme should be under way by the middle of the year.

Mr. E. Craven, the Ulverston

chairman, appealed to people who knew of spastics to let the society know so that they could be helped. "All too often we don't get to know about them," he said. He added that the Ulverston branch has funds of £70, and 180 members.

**Blackburn:**—Edited from the *Blackburn Times*

Mr. Joe Robinson entertained his many friends, including many from Blackburn, to a hot pot and social evening at the Moorcock Inn in aid of spastics. As a result the excellent sum of £132 was forwarded to Blackburn and District Group.

**Tees-side:**—Edited from the *Evening Gazette*, Middlesbrough

Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics have benefited by £16 7s. 6d. from efforts made at the Clarendon Hotel for the Society. It all began in December when a customer, Mr. William Hawkins, mentioned to the landlord, Mr. Cyril Trotter, that it was his birthday. "Then stick a shilling on the mirror for the spastics," Mr. Trotter told him. It snow-balled and twice the surface of the mirror was covered with money. Already it has been stripped twice.

**York:**—Edited from the *Yorkshire Evening Press*

York Watch Committee has granted an application from York and District Spastics Group for a licence to hold a house-to-house collection in the city this year.

**Sale:**

At a wonderful dinner and dance held recently, the chairman of the Sale, Altrincham & District Spastics Society, Mrs. L. Stockdale, was presented with a cheque for £450. Later it was realised that over £500 was raised by the event. At the same function, a gentleman in the company presented the Sale centre with a brand new Ferrograph Tape Recorder for the speech therapy department.

THERE ARE NO  
CRISPS  
TO EQUAL  
SMITH'S  
FOR QUALITY AND FLAVOUR



*A  
delicious  
jam tart*

# PINEBANK

The Centre at

## CHESTERFIELD

LEAVING a cold and gloomy London, with rain beginning to threaten the dry spell we had enjoyed, I took the train to Chesterfield where I was looking forward to visiting the new centre of the Chesterfield and District Spastics Society—Pinebank. The train was late, and the view afforded by the wide windows was grey in the extreme. On arrival at the station, however, the sun came out from behind the clouds and I stepped off the train to be greeted by Mrs. Elsie Barker, the centre's part-time secretary.

I was going to the centre founded by Mr. Maurice H. Boone, whose recent death had been such a shock to all who knew him. Pinebank had not long been open, since last July in fact, and officially in October, with Mr. Boone proudly officiating. Would one find Pinebank tinged with sadness? Would the driving force behind its inception be missing? These questions were simply answered when I stepped over the threshold of 9 Abercrombie Street.

The warmth of the oil fired central heating was not greater than the welcome

I received from Miss Elsie Wilson, the housemother, and her eight-year-old cocker spaniel, Brandy. With Brandy bouncing about rather heavily at our feet we very sensibly made our way to the dining room as, conveniently, I had arrived at lunch time.

The yellow and blue formica covered tables, red-painted chairs, the red cups and flowered crockery, with the tables laid for a salad and fruit meal, could have tempted the most jaded appetite—not that mine was jaded!

At the informal lunch it was easy to get to know the staff. Miss Wilson introduced me to Mrs. Elsie Hemming (yes there are three Elsies) who is the general assistant (paid) and Mr. J. E. Ffoulkes, the secretary, looked in to give me some background information. I was told that two of the voluntary workers were young teenage sales girls who spent their half-day, every Wednesday afternoon, helping at Pinebank. The physiotherapist, who comes three days a week is paid for by the local hospital and the speech therapist, paid for by the Society, comes on Saturday mornings. Two paid cleaners keep the entire house spotless and in apple-pie order.

Miss Wilson said that Pinebank is open 5½ days a week and 23 children attend, averaging eight a day. Ten children are out-patients, six of whom need speech therapy. The ambulance service of the county provide transport

and children eat school dinners. *In the future it is hoped to have more children, but extra voluntary help will have to be found.* At the present time 20 voluntary helpers are available but each can only come for a half-day.

### How it Started

Over coffee, Mr. Ffoulkes gave me brief details of Pinebank's background.

In 1954, the head almoner of the group of hospitals had asked Mr. Boone how many spastics were in Chesterfield. Alderman Leonard Wilkinson, the Mayor, called a meeting for the town and it was unanimously resolved that a Chesterfield and District branch be formed and a day centre set up.

Mr. Boone, in his position as secretary to the Hospital Management Committee had all the facilities for his job as chairman of the Society. Now until the next meeting in mid-summer, Alderman Wilkinson is the acting chairman. Credit too, must also be given to the members of the Pinebank Management Committee and its chairman, Mr. Rogers.

Pinebank, an ex-nursing home in Abercrombie Street, was bought in 1958 for £1,000 less than the purchase price as the owner, the late Mr. Theo Pearson, J.P., chairman of the hospital regional board of Sheffield, had great sympathy with the cause. The N.S.S. gave a grant of £1,000 towards the cost and sent along one of its expert officers to advise. Under the guidance of the honorary architect, the late Mr. W. A. Derbyshire, it took 18 months for the house to be put into shape. The ladies of the Society, however, had their say when it came to planning the colour schemes.

Chesterfield Society has two Hon. Medical Officers, Dr. A. H. Smith, and Dr. Margaret Eastwood, who are both on the staff of the Royal Hospital.

### Grand Tour

After lunch, Miss Wilson took me on a tour of the centre. One touch that I found delightful was that each door was painted a delicate shade and in coloured letters was marked to what use the room was being put. For example, instead of the waiting room being called Waiting Room, it was labelled "Friends". The bathroom, girls, boys, creche and play, dining room were similarly inscribed. For those who like to know these things, the adjustable chairs and tables in the dining room were called "Fold-a-Bye" and made by Hartley Marsland Ltd.

The physiotherapy room was one of the most charming I have seen. A big bay window looks on to the large garden at the back; one half of the room

was painted white and the other a luscious plum colour; a green square carpet filled half of the yellow linoleum floor. Two large tables, one covered in white, the other in green, looked bouncy and inviting enough for even the most loathsome exercises.

### New Toy

On walking back to the creche and play room where most of the children were assembled and engaged in time-consuming pursuits, we heard a great commotion and sounds of hilarious enjoyment. The postman had just brought in a fascinating toy—a rock-a-boat. The unpacking of it must have broken all unpacking records, and perched in the seats at either end were two little girls rocking backwards and forwards in a fine state of excitement. The rock-a-boat was an excellent idea of Miss Wilson who felt that one of the children who was not able to sit astride any of the more usual toys such as a horse or a bike should be able to enjoy one of the mobile toys.

### Moments for Reflection

We left the scene with the babes and their helpers and made our way upstairs to look at the speech therapy and board rooms. The speech therapy room although not completely equipped, does not lack money to pay for the cost of furniture. Mrs. Freer, wife of one of the members of the Society who had died, had asked that instead of flowers, money should be sent to Pinebank to pay for this room, and £230 was raised.

In the boardroom Miss Wilson became slightly sad. She said, looking around and then out of the window, "We hope to have a memorial stone in here to Mr. Boone. I remember, last Christmas, when he played Santa Claus for the first time and saw the children eagerly waiting for their gifts, he felt happier than he'd ever been before." But then she brightened, and said, "It's a lovely centre, don't you think?" I did think.

Back we trotted to the kitchen—as you may guess, it was practically tea time. I was shown the children's articles in the kitchen cupboard and told how they love to make their own pies and cakes. Miss Wilson wonders which they prefer more, the making or the eating afterwards! It seems that although a number of the children cannot concentrate for long on more routine work, when it comes to making pastry and little cut-out figures in dough, they can spend hours on the job.

I admired the crockery and Miss Wilson replied, "Well, we don't have plastic here because outside and at home most

people don't have plastic cups and saucers and we want the children to get used to handling the everyday article, and they take more care because they know if it drops, it will break. Now there are very few breakages."

She told me about the garden and how they had difficulty in obtaining a gardener and how, eventually, on the piece of land adjoining the house, they hoped to build an adult centre.

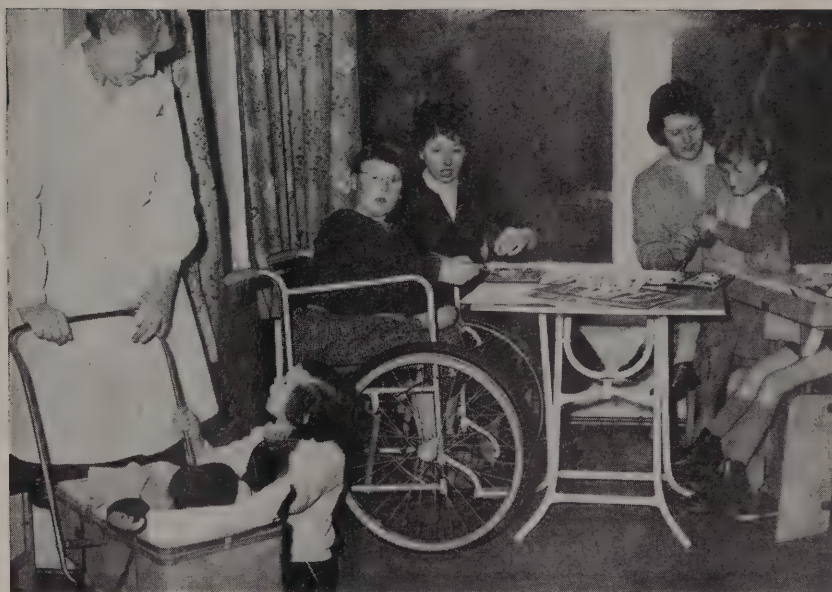
The afternoon had passed all too quickly, but for once it was still not the end of my visit. I was able to say good-bye knowing we would meet up later that evening and in a definitely lighter mood.

### Event of the Year

Well, the dinner, the dance, and the speeches were a success. Yours truly must have lost a few pounds doing the Gay Gordons and other dances that rock 'n roll, and cha-cha-cha have definitely not superseded. The speeches were moving and again respect was shown to their beloved Mr. Boone, when the company stood in silence for two minutes. To whomsoever one spoke the name of Maurice Boone just could not help coming up. He was in everyone's mind that evening as they relaxed, enjoying the fruits of a successful few years.

It was obvious as I said good-bye to these good people that a fine man's work would never be forgotten. His friends and followers, and the children who would pass through Pinebank, would see to that.

M.G.



*Painting and play*

*Miss E. Wilson and two young helpers, who give up their half-day holiday each week, keep the children busy*

*Physiotherapy!*



*Time to go home*



# ASSISTANCE FOR SPASTICS

**I**T is unnecessary for anyone in Britain today to suffer serious financial hardship, particularly those spastics who are unable, or find it difficult, to be self-supporting.

The community as a whole has accepted responsibility for helping those of its members who, through infirmity or for some other reasons, are unable to provide for themselves—the national assistance scheme having been set up to provide for those who have no resources or insufficient means to meet their needs.

The scheme does not extend to people who are in full-time work, and children and young persons under the age of 16 cannot themselves apply. But anyone over the age of 16 who is in need, whether still living with parents or not, can ask for help. Those who are fit for work will be expected to register at the Employment Exchange.

## More Money

The standards against which need of assistance is measured are set out in Parliamentary regulations in the form of scale rates for weekly needs, not including rent which is allowed for in addition, but including the needs of any dependants. These scale rates have been increased from time to time since the scheme began in 1948, and on April 3 new increased rates came into force. The scale rate for a married couple is now 90s. and for a person living alone 53s. 6d. There are different rates for other people and for children, depending on age.

The National Assistance Board has an important discretionary power to provide over and above the scale rates for special circumstances in individual cases.

The actual work of assessing and paying the Board's grants is carried out at local area offices and it is to these offices that spastics should apply, although it is not necessary to go there personally. All that is needed is that the Board's officer should receive the spastic's name and address, either by means of a letter to the local office, whose address can be found in the telephone directory and in a list displayed at the Post Office, or by obtaining from the Post Office and signing a simple form of application (Form 0.1), which is stamped and addressed ready for posting.

When it is received the officer will visit the spastic and discuss with him in the privacy of his own home his needs and resources, so as to be able to decide whether a grant is payable. He will look first at the question of need, including the need to pay rent and rates (the needs will include a share of the rent for an applicant aged 18 or over who is living as a member of another household). He will also want to know whether anybody else is living in the house and is dependent on the applicant and whether there are any extra expenses arising from, for example, unusually heavy wear on clothing, a special diet, or a need for additional heating.

He will also want to know what resources the applicant may already have to meet these needs and will ask for details of all kinds of income, including National Insurance benefits and part-time earnings, etc., and also for details of savings or investments.

## Home Printers

Although the Board's officer will need to have a complete record of resources not all of them will necessarily be taken fully into account. For example, up to 15s. weekly of a payment from a relative or some other voluntary source is dis-

regarded, and the first 30s., plus half the next 20s., can be disregarded from the part-time earnings of a disabled person who is unable to register for employment, e.g. earnings under the National Spastics Society's scheme for printing Christmas cards at home.

Generous "disregards" are also made in respect of savings. A person can have £375 of "war savings" and up to £600 of other capital and still receive a grant from the Board. The capital value of a house personally owned and occupied is disregarded.

When the officer has obtained this information—which will be treated as strictly confidential—he will be in a position to decide whether a grant is necessary. If the resources available after allowing for any amounts which can be disregarded are less than the sum of the scale rate plus a rent allowance, if this is appropriate, then a grant will be payable—the amount of the grant being the difference between the two. This sum can be increased to provide for any exceptional expenses.

Patients in hospital who have nothing for personal expenses or, perhaps, have a home and family to maintain, can usually get help from the Board, though the way in which the grant is calculated will be somewhat different.

Payment of the grant is generally made through the Post Office. The applicant is provided with a book of orders which are cashed each week at any Post Office he may choose, and if he is unable to get to the Post Office himself he can appoint a deputy to collect the grant. The order book makes no mention of national assistance and is simply headed "Supplement to pension or other grant."

These arrangements will not apply to anyone considered fit enough to register at the Employment Exchange; payment is then made at the Exchange.

The officer will continue to visit at regular intervals in order to adjust the amount of the grant if there are any changes of circumstances. While his chief duty is to provide financial assistance for those who need it, the officer will also be available to give advice and help with any other problems which may arise.

## Extra Help

The Board can also help, by refunding to those who cannot afford to pay them, National Health Service charges for prescriptions, glasses, dentures and dental treatment, and surgical appliances, and by meeting fares to hospital to attend for treatment. This help is not limited to those receiving a regular weekly grant but is also available to others who, after paying the charges, would be left with insufficient to meet their needs by the standards explained above.

To claim a refund of prescription charges a form E.C.57 (which has instructions on the back) should be obtained when payment is made to the chemist; the supplier will be able to give advice about help with other charges. Information about the refund of fares to hospital can be obtained from the hospital authorities.

Further information about regular weekly grants from the Board is given in leaflet AL18 which can be obtained from any Post Office, and about assistance with charges under the National Health Service in leaflet AL19 which can be obtained from the Board's officer, who will be pleased to give advice—by visiting at home if necessary—to anyone in doubt.

The Board is there to help, and is anxious to help those people whose income and other resources fall short of the standards laid down by Parliament.

# HOUSE MAGAZINES

**M**ORE and more schools, centres and similar establishments are bringing out small news sheets or house magazines. Two which have been brought to my notice recently—and which I am bringing to your notice—are, respectively, produced by the N.S.S. residential centre, Coombe Farm, and the Birtenshaw Special School for Spastics.

## COOMBE FARM CHRONICLE

**W**HETHER or not spurred on by the SPASTICS NEWS, residents of Coombe Farm have decided to bring out their house journal regularly each month.

The Coombe Farm Chronicle is produced by two residents who sign themselves J.M. & R.C. (some digging uncovered that this stood for John Mockel and Roy Chapman) with contributions by other residents. The magazine is produced on white foolscap duplicating paper with 20 pages and folded in half. The front cover is drawn by a reader.

### Contributions

The residents certainly do send in their contributions! The motoring correspondent seems to have a very extravagant taste in cars; his approval of the fastest flying Daimler is unqualified. *Forthcoming Films* keeps everyone au fait with the programmes to be enjoyed at Coombe Farm; *Aunt femima* supplies a horoscope which makes for thrilling reading—though where some of the readers will find their “lucky” colours such as puce or peach among their wardrobes, must prove quite worrying to the believer. Extremely blank verse, descriptions of visits, current events, useful gadgets and a *Something Unusual* column after the manner of a “Believe it or not”, all make good reading and must have been fun for the authors to prepare even including the four-line epistle on Christmas.

### Quote

One dissertation on *Talking* is quoteworthy: “**Not being able to talk is a nuisance although sometimes it is an advantage because people tell me interesting things they know I can’t pass on**” . . . And coming from a woman, that was written with true feeling!

One of the funniest features and the most unusual I have seen anywhere is the list of lost property—objects that have been found in Coombe Farm’s silver paper collection. From: One C. & A. bill for 14s. 11d., to Four earwigs all dead, down to One inn sign (The Rest Hotel)—in miniature thank-goodness, this list is hilariously funny. It must be even more so to the owners.

Coombe Farm Chronicle is a jolly and well-produced little magazine. If anyone would like a copy write to the Warden, F. W. Bowyer, Esq., at Coombe Farm, Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey, enclosing a 6d. Postal Order. Reader’s letters and drawings for the front covers are always welcome.

## BIRTENSHAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE

**T**HIS magazine, the same size facia as SPASTICS NEWS, with 10 pages and also produced on a duplicating machine, is brought out quarterly.



*Printing needs concentration  
Here residents at Coombe Farm are busy with the important work of Christmas cards. But the same care is taken in producing their duplicated magazine*

Here again the editor is helped by an assistant and between them they produce a creditable issue. The well set out cover sets a seal upon a very neatly presented magazine.

As well as the usual descriptions of events, three young artists have tried their hand at full page simple line drawings. The back cover has a short verse.

### “What a shame”

One of the best articles in their December issue was written by a young girl, Judith Ann Goddard, who is now taking a commercial course at Castle Hill School. Entitled “What a Shame”, she writes:

“I am a girl of 14 and a spastic. As I now go to a special school and to a secondary modern school four times each week, this means that I have to travel regularly by bus. To me, this is a great achievement, but unfortunately, when I get on the bus I often hear people say, ‘What a shame.’ It makes me feel very sad to realise that they cannot understand my joy of achievement, so now I am going to try to explain what it feels like to be a spastic and to hear those words.

“ . . . Often a spastic child cannot do what ordinary people do very, very easily, e.g. pick up a pencil and draw a line. Therefore we find great pleasure in learning to do something new. Also having had to struggle very hard to accomplish an action, we appreciate it all the more when eventually we succeed. This does not mean to say that we never get down-hearted and frustrated, especially at the length of time a new action may take.”

“ . . . Unfortunately, there are many things we should like to do but know are absolutely impossible and often we are restricted in our choice of career. However, there are some things that I can do that I know some normal people cannot, e.g. I can swim and I am having my voice trained.”

“I should like to stress finally that it is essential that we do as many things for ourselves as we possibly can.”

“So when you see a spastic child again, even if you do feel sorry for them, please try not to say so out loud for we know in our hearts that there are many, many people worse off than ourselves.”

J.A.G.

This fine little production from Birtenshaw can be bought for 3d. from Birtenshaw Hall, Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Nr. Bolton.

IT'S here at last. A page just for women. That of course includes the girls and everyone who comes under the heading "female".

So many readers have written in endorsing the feature that in this April issue we are proud to present our first ever "Mainly for Women" column.

Readers are invited to send in their contributions—if any man has something to say he will not be spurned. Advice, criticism, bright ideas, all are welcome. So don't forget we want to hear from you!

### THE TEENAGE FORUM

EACH month Mayes hold a Teenage Forum. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with it, I will try and explain what a Teenage Forum is, and why it is held. Mayes is a large fashion store, and the Teenage Forum is a fashion show specially for teenagers. It is designed to help the young teenager to choose and buy clothes wisely, and within the budget of the average working teenager. The clothes shown are smart and yet designed to team with other items in one's wardrobe. I hope the above has explained the Teenage Forum set-up, and I will now describe a typical Forum.

One afternoon my friends and I—all members of the Southampton Speed-on Spastics Youth Club—went along to the Autumn Forum. The event was held in Mayes' large restaurant, the audience being seated in a semi-circle. The mannequins paraded within that semi-circle, so that everyone had a good view.

Purple seemed to me to be the most fashionable colour at this parade, and mohair the most favoured fabric. Colours were striking and very gay. Trews again were in the forefront of fashion, in very bright colours and varied designs. Blouses were simple and made mostly of cotton. Shirt blouses seem to have gone out of favour, and are replaced by blouses with soft necks and short sleeves. Suits, however, have changed not so much in style but in fabric. This year there are many tweeds, which are casual and easy to wear. Evening gowns shown were suit-

able mainly for special occasions, and were nearly all ankle-length.

The fashion parade was preceded by a short talk and demonstration on make-up. This was given by a Gala representative, who not only advised on cosmetics but experimented on a model for all of us to see. At the end of the display a small gift of lipstick was given to every teenager present. The whole parade was enjoyable as well as most instructive.

JOSEPHINE KING.

### Spring Fashions

Seventeen-year-old Josephine King, wrote this article after visiting the autumn fashion show but readers will now have read all the reviews in the national press about spring fashions for 1961.

As a reminder, colour in vogue has changed again. The primary is now green from the palest peppermint to mint green. Subsidiaries are the caramel shades, warm browns and mango or a hot orange-pink.

Materials are light and flowing such as chiffon or the man-made fibres like nylon and tricot, which allows for the fluid line so prevalent in all the collections. Skirts are easier and the whole mood is one of freedom of movement.

For those of you who like smart shoes, think about getting a "spade" toe when buying your next pair. This is much more fashionable now than the pointed Italian designs we have been wearing for so long.

### BEAUTY KNOW-HOW



with Shirley Keene

### Practice

Everything needs practice and, as all else, those small helps to your appearance. When many girls first begin painting their faces, they do so with an unsure hand. They need practice. If

[Continued on page 17.]

### Saturday Morning Break

The latest news from the Southampton club is that Mayes have started a "Saturday Morning Break". This is a committee of about eight girls who will discuss and arrange forthcoming Teenage Forums. We are proud to announce that Josephine King has been asked to be secretary of this committee.

A friend has promised to provide voluntary transport to and from the meeting every fourth Saturday. It certainly looks as though the attendance of the girls at the Teenage Forum may lead to many interesting opportunities.

(Continued from previous page)

you're a spastic and your hands shake anyway, you need even more if you're going to get the right coloured stuff in the right place.

It is a new and worrying task and the very thought makes your hands more disobedient than ever. I've even heard some spastic girls say that they didn't bother with make-up because it took too long to apply. Very short sighted, for the only way to speed up the process is lots of practice.

Shop around for your cosmetics, seeking not only the right colours to tone with your complexion and your wardrobe, but the sort of holder which will give you a good grip and has fastenings you can manage. Also, if you have a problem with saliva, experiment to find a lipstick which won't run and will stand up to damp conditions. This sounds like an expensive beginning, but it's worth it in the long run. Recommending brands is not much use for everyone's skin reacts differently.

### Creams

The number of pots of "goo" you use

depends on your skin and the size of your purse. (Some females' dressing tables look more like dispensaries and it must take them almost all day to apply and remove their make-up). Top of the list is cleansing cream, first for its obvious purpose, and second, to tidy up off-target mascara and lipstick.

Unless your skin is quite fabulous, you need a foundation for your powder. (If it IS fabulous, better protect it with some anyway.) Apply it sparingly and in a good light so you're not left with a tide-mark between jaw line and neck. Powder next, pat on firmly to stay put as long as possible, surplus brushed off to obviate a "cakey" look.

### Eye Make-up

Next come eyes, and this is where it gets tricky, for you need very steady hands. The long thin roll-on type applicator is a lot easier to use than those beastly little brushes. If you press your elbow (or elbows if you use both hands) against the wardrobe mirror it will help to keep them steady enough to get eyebrows and lashes on straight. If this is

quite beyond your particular complication, a smear of baby oil will darken lashes and brows a little, and keep the latter a tidy shape.

The elbow pressing technique will probably help when it comes to your lipstick too.

### Fingernails

A variation on this may help to paint your fingernails; with wrists and forearms clamped down firmly on a table, which is the most convenient height for you. A brush with a long handle is best, and if you don't want to buy that brand each time, keep the brush (cleaned with remover or acetone) to use with other bottles. If you stand the bottle in a block of wood with a hole in it, you won't knock it over. Use pale tones of nail varnish, for although you want to improve the look of your hands, you don't want, if they're shaky, to draw too much attention to them.

If nail painting is beyond you, keep them scrupulously clean and, above all, **DON'T BITE THEM**. Think of what happened to Venus de Milo!

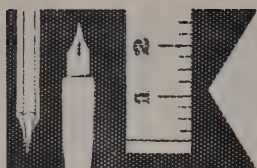
# Please

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## EMPLOYMENT CORNER

The following is the latest on the employment front:—

**Barbara Bayton**, from **Surrey**, after completing her training at Sherrards, is now punch riveting and testing resistors with a well-known firm.

**Marion Brown**, of **Gosport**, has commenced training at the Gosport Training Centre.

**Bernard Burrows**, of **Devon**, has now taken on the post of resident supervisor at the new Southend Spastics Centre.

**Margaret Doyle**, of **Ware, Herts**, after completing training at Sherrards, is working as a machine operator in a local firm.

**Janice Dyke**, of **North Walsham**, has obtained employment with a plastics firm.

**Michael Edwards**, from **Ipswich**, is working part-time in the collecting-box department of the local spastics' group.

**Elaine Haigh**, of **Bradford**, who was on the most recent assessment course at Clitheroe, is now undergoing training as a Tickopres operator.

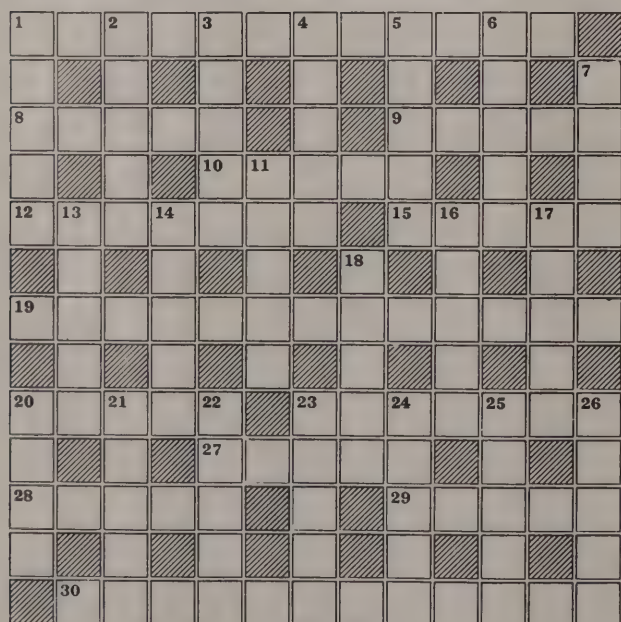
**Michael Mills-Hicks**, of **Surrey**, and **Michael Royle**, of **Swindon**, are both training at Banstead Place.

**Jeremy Morecombe**, of **Colliers Wood**, who attended our assessment course at the Arundel last year, has commenced work with a lamp-shade manufacturer.

**Michael Stray**, of **Watford**, is attending Ruislip Work Centre.

**Pamela Swaine**, of **Rye**, who was also on the course at the Arundel, Westcliff, has now commenced her duties as assistant secretary of the Maidstone Group.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 12



### ACROSS

1. One of the Canadian ten. 3, 9.
8. Swindle little Theodore? 5.

(Continued from page 9)

## THE CAUSES OF DELAY IN SPEAKING

only a minimal general motor disability, there was also a marked delay in the onset of speech which was similar to that of the children with an articulatory defect and a general motor disability as follows:—

			Average Age	Range
Words	...	...	3 - 4 years	1½ - 5½ years
Phrases	...	...	4 - 8 years	1½ - 9½ years

In assessing the cause of delay in speaking, therefore, one must consider each of the four main conditions hearing defect, mental retardation, aphasia, and less commonly, emotional disturbance.

The child's ability to understand speech, and an analysis of the type of speech and articulation used, may suggest the need for further assessments of hearing and of intelligence. An understanding of the family situations, and the home management of the child's speech disability, is also important. It is also essential, when the child is of school age, that his teachers should be given an explanation as to the true nature of his problems, especially when he has normal intelligence and is being educated in the normal school.

Speech is our most important means of communication with other human beings, and when an intelligent child has delay in speaking or inadequate language ability, there will be frustration, which is increased if those in his environment do not fully understand his difficulty. Accurate assessment is therefore the first essential, with speech therapy to help him to achieve the best use of speech which is possible.

1. MORLEY, M. E. The Development and Disorders of Speech in Childhood. 1959. Livingstone. Edinburgh.
2. SPENCE, J. C., WALTON, S., MILLER, F. J. W., COURT, S. D. M. A Thousand Families in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 1954. Oxford University Press.
9. 17's scramble to come to terms. 5.
10. The matchless are without it. 5.
12. Here in a way 15 joins us in the Levant. 7.
15. Monsieur may think it carries a cargo! 5.
19. A minor phenomenon! 6, 7.
20. "Tell her, my love, more noble than the world, Prizes not quantity of dirty . . . ." Twelfth Night. 5.
23. Silent as a hundred curtailed. 7.
27. The constant Nymph. 5.
28. Curt translation of 22. 5.
29. The birds had the seed? Start again, it might be worse. 5.
30. Another flavour from the rye and dry branch. 6, 6.

### DOWN

1. Elbow tip as it were. 5.
2. Spelling mistress? 5.
3. "Who . . . at the tail of a border thief he sits not long at his meat;" Kipling. 5.
4. Punch the Emperor! 5.
5. Cat marks perhaps. 5.
6. Far more becoming than a hairpin to lady drivers. 5.
7. It's only 25 per cent of average springs. 4.
11. Rather colourlessly required. 5.
13. By Christopher, the smallest of the galleons. 5.
14. I left Daniel to the beast. 5.
16. Lay off to the limit of a field. 5.
17. All agog! 5.
18. How many go in the fire depends on one's handicap no doubt. 5.
20. One thin criterion. 4.
21. The most attractive of points. 5.
22. Cattle among the trees. 5.
23. Over interest in money matters? 5.
24. Three cheers for an Abyssinian duke! 5.
25. Crime of a clergyman who lost his head. 5.
26. Wordy delivery appreciated by bridegrooms. 5.

# I CAN MANAGE

by Dora Howell



1930. Dora sits in the garden with her mother

## CHAPTER IV

FOR the first time in my young life I was attending a school. I was a spastic and many of the other children at this invalid school seemed far less handicapped than myself. However, my lessons continued and gradually I liked it more and more as I gained confidence and friends.

As time went on I was moved into another class. The teacher was a short, stodgy person with very untidy hair. She looked more like a cook, and hardly ever smiled. Nearly every day I was banished from the classroom for making my pals laugh. As I sat by the kitchen door the maids became very fond of me and often brought out a cup of tea.

One day, however, the teacher came outside and discovered this ruse. So after that I had to sit in a corner with a screen round me.

One memorable day I asked a friend to write on the blackboard the first piece of doggerel I had ever composed. It ran:

There was an old lady Miss Mason  
She had a face like a basin—  
Whenever she shouts  
We go up the spout  
That nasty old teacher, Miss Mason.

The heroine of the piece came in before there was time to rub it off the blackboard. Everyone went very quiet. Josephine, the teacher's pet monkey, had perched herself on the window-sill by my desk.

The boys and girls were giggling and Miss Mason who had not noticed the blackboard, said sternly, "I will have quietness." When she saw the blackboard, however, her face changed from white to red in anger. "Who did this?" she asked. Nobody answered. "I repeat, *who* did this? If nobody owns up the whole class will be punished badly."

I meekly put my hand up. As I did so, the monkey held my finger. "You, I might have known it! There has been no peace in this classroom since you came." She came over and gave me a thump in the back. The monkey got the bottle of ink and threw it at her. It ran all over her clean overall. She was furious and dragged me to my wheel chair. The boys and girls were calling, "Don't hurt her, it's your fault." She said, "*Who* wrote it on the blackboard?"

My pal, little Arthur, put up his hand. "I thought so! You two make a good pair! Come with me to the headmistress, at once."

She wheeled me and Arthur held on to the chair, looking very frightened. I whispered to him, "Don't worry, pal." I was pretending to be a heroine.

His face brightened as he said quietly, "I don't care, do you?"

Miss Mason told us it was rude to whisper. Then she said, "As for you Dora, I shall get you expelled." That shocked me immensely.

After the headmistress had heard the story, I saw a small smile flicker over her face. "Well I didn't think it of Dora, I must say," Miss Hutch said seriously, "but I think if Dora will apologise, we can forgive her. After all she did own up." She added, "Let us go to lunch and Dora can go without her pudding which is rice and treacle." This made me snigger because she knew I did not like it.

Then her eyes fell on Mason's overall and she asked, "What is that?"

I said, "Oh, the monkey did it."

"In that case the monkey had better go without his lunch too."

Miss Mason pushed me out of the door indignantly. The door closed with rather a bang. "I never heard such nonsense in all my life. I'll see into this and get you expelled young lady," she professed.

Naturally, my mother soon knew all about the episode and she wrote a note to the headmistress.

On going back to school Miss Hutch met us at the door.

"Mrs. Howell, I want you to be very firm," she said, "don't be upset by what will be proposed. We are all on Dora's side, except one and she doesn't count."

My mother said, "Well, what is it? Surely my Dora hasn't committed a crime?"

"I cannot tell you, until you have seen the Committee and the doctor, but I must make you understand that you must stand your ground."

We waited for half an hour, and were then called to meet two doctors and four women on the committee.

"Oh, so this is Dora," the doctor said. I disliked him on sight.

He looked at me very sternly and came over to examine my eyes. When he asked me if I knew my A.B.C., I was so nervous I couldn't get the words out. Looking at my mother he announced, "You know, your daughter is mentally deficient."

This made me shout at him, "Pardon me doctor, I am not barmy."

Miss Hutch put her arms round my shoulder. "Doctor, what a dreadful thing for you to say. She has plenty of ability."

"Tut-tut, I think I know my work."

The younger doctor came forward and he said, "Let us give Dora a chance, we'll ask her some questions."



*Dora and  
friend at  
Oxford*

He gave me a long division sum saying, "I want to know the answer in five minutes."

"Perhaps you would help her," he asked Hutch, but she replied, "Leave her alone, she will work it out."

I worked very hard at it and before he came back I had finished and told him the answer. They all looked amazed, even Hutch was astonished, and exclaimed, "Marvellous."

I'm afraid I was very rude. I looked up at the stern doctor and declared, "I'm not barmy now am I?"

He smiled and agreed, "No, I'm sorry."

The doctor then spoke to my mother and the headmistress. "We are thinking of sending Dora to the Mental Deficiency School. Not because she is insane but because she cannot use her hands and is taking the place of another more active child."

"I shan't come at all," I shouted.

Mother said, "Hush, dear, I know you won't."

Hutch said, "Well, I never heard anything so abominable!"

"Can you think of a suggestion?" they asked her.

After a few minutes' thought she put forward her plan. "If Dora agrees I'm sure Miss Clutch would like her back in her class. Of course it is an infants' class but we could give her first class work and it would not interfere with the small children. What do you think?"

The doctor looked round to see if the others agreed. They all nodded in approval. "What does Dora think?" they said.

I said, "I don't mind but the others will think I am a big dunce."

"I am sure they won't for they all know you now. You help a good many."

"All right, we'll see about it and let you know," the doctor said.

## CHAPTER V

WHEN I got home there was a letter waiting for mother. She had already written to the hospital reminding them about my operation and this was the reply. It ran, "Dear Madam, with regard to Dora's operation, we are pleased to tell you there will be a vacant bed for her next month, the 16th of August. We shall expect to see you at 9 a.m."

My mouth dropped; mother looked at me and said, "Now darling, cheer up, anyway I have a surprise for you. Tomorrow we are going to Brighton for a little holiday."

Brighton was fun and the weather was kind to us for the whole weekend. On the Tuesday, the 4th August, we heard the dreadful news that war had broken out between us and Germany. Mother, very upset at the news, insisted that we return home.

The week that followed was very unsettling and I did not go back to school immediately. In the meantime we had another message from the hospital saying that on account of the war, although they could not keep me in for as long a period as they had hoped, they would perform the operation. Mother would have to do much of the nursing.

In order that the doctors might see me every fortnight she had to borrow a spinal chair from the Cripples Society.

I had my operation and was in plaster from my toes up to my waist.

## CHAPTER VI

THE morning of the operation I was feeling very brave, because I thought the theatre meant an entertainment. As breakfast was being taken round I yelled to one of my favourite nurses, "Hi! I'm here. I want some bacon."

She replied, "We are coming to dress you for the theatre in a minute young lady."

I said, "Oh, goodie goodie what fun." She came across to me, put her arms round me and said kindly, "You poor kid, I don't mean that. You are going to have an operation, but I know you will be brave."

For a minute my eyes filled with tears of disappointment. I promised to be brave. Making me laugh all the time the nurse proceeded to get me ready. I wanted my knickers on but she said I must go without them. I felt so naked without them but when I was ready I felt on top of the world until the woman in the next bed who was also going to the theatre, sat bolt upright in bed and quoted the scripture, "Yea, tho' I walk through the shadow of death I will fear no evil."

I started to howl, "I don't want to die, I want my mother." And between the sobs I shouted, "Can... I... have... my... knickers on?"

The nurses laughed and did all they could to comfort me but I did *not* get my own way. I was put on the trolley and Sister and a nurse wheeled me out of the ward. As I was going out two of the patients called after me, "We'll take care of your knickers!"

In the theatre a mask was put over my face and I found myself kicking and fighting, but eventually knew no more.

When I woke up I was in bed feeling very heavy and thought I had no legs at all. I said to the doctor, "You're a beast, you've cut my legs off and I don't like you!"

He smiled very kindly, pulled the bed clothes up and showed me my toes. I smiled through my tears and both doctors said I'd been a good girl.

Mother came in and looked at me quietly and sweetly, "I have three soldiers in my family now," she alleged. Harry and Leonard had joined up and I was her third soldier. In many ways I was babyish yet I realised what strength and courage my mother had.

It was a horrible wet day when mother finally came to fetch me with my spinal chair. The nurses and Sister were all very kind and tucked me warmly into my new bed in which I was to stay for the next nine months. At the time I didn't mind, as it was quite comfortable. Everyone waved me goodbye.

Mother had to push me to the station and she laughed when I said, "Only animals go in guard's vans."

It was still pouring with rain and a huge mackintosh was covering nearly all of me, so that I could not see much.

When the train whistled I became nervous and cried from fear but mother tried to comfort me by putting her fingers in my ears.

Soon the porter came along and mother asked him to put me in the guard's van. By this time I had recovered myself and assured him, "I'm quite safe, I don't bite."

He said, "Well, with that smile, you'll get anywhere." The guard turned to mother and averred, "Ain't it a shame that girls like her should suffer?"

Quite ready to agree with him I said, "Yes, ain't it?" in his tone of voice, hoping to cheer mother. She laughed and related the story when we got home. After that it became a standing joke between us, "Ain't it a shame?"

We were helped into the van and to my surprise the only animals were luggage—I was quite disappointed.

Going home was quite an experience. When we reached our road several neighbours came out to greet me. They showered me with fruit, flowers and sweets, and promised they would often come and see me, so that I should not be lonely. I said to mother, "Look, I think we could open a shop."

My sister Ada who had taken two days holiday especially for my home-coming burst into tears.

It was so difficult trying to get the chair into the doorway that Reggie suggested taking the door off. However, at last we got in, scratching the paintwork and they managed to get me into the dining room.

When I looked round the room I saw it was a mass of flowers. I burst out crying and said to mother, "Why has everybody been so kind to me?"

Harry chimed in, "Because you're such a little devil."

They all sat down to their dinner and as I couldn't feed myself in the position I was in, mother brought her chair beside me. I wanted to make an effort to pick up a spoonful, but I threw the food all over my face.

Reggie declared, "Here, we don't make puddings for you to wash your face in."

## CHAPTER VII

THE weeks grew into months, sometimes it seemed endless. I used to hear the children playing outside and longed to be with my school friends. Mother did her best to keep me happy but keeping her house running with the addition of myself was a big undertaking for her. Naturally she was worried about my brothers who were now in France, though she never mentioned it to me. They both returned but Leonard was slightly wounded.

Once a week mother used to take me backwards and forwards to the hospital. I used to make a joke of it saying, "No *lady* goes to town in a dressing gown." It was generally agreed that I was no lady.

At last the day dawned when my plaster was removed. Unfortunately owing to shortage of experienced staff, this was not done expertly. My leg was injured in two places and the tendons in my leg drew up causing great pain. This is how they remained for some time and had not my mother persistently pulled my legs down they would have become contracted. She sat up with me at night to do this but often Reggie would come down to make her go to bed.

My screams became so terrible at these times that the neighbours complained.

Gradually this phase was overcome until eventually the doctor said I could get up and, with help, try my legs.

Mother dressed me and said, "We'll wait until Daddy comes home before trying to walk."

She put me in a chair under the tree in the garden and my little dog, very excited, was jumping around us.

I had on a pair of high boots that felt very heavy and clumsy, but we were both very pleased. I said to Perky, "Soon I'll take you for a walk in the park." As I sat there I felt very strong. I thought, "Now I am going to try to walk." I grabbed hold of the fence and put one foot down. It felt good, so deliberately I put the other one down beside it. Perky barked and I jumped. My knees gave under me and down I went with the damaged leg under me. I screamed with pain and fright. The neighbours came out to fetch my mother. Poor mother came. "What have you done? I asked you *not* to move," she said. "What shall I do? She's broken her leg now," she cried.

With the help of a neighbour she got me back into my spinal chair. By this time I had fainted with pain. A neighbour went to fetch the doctor who came immediately.

"What have you done now, Dora?" he asked, then added, "You are naughty." I was too ashamed and shocked to speak. He said I had a very bad sprain but no break. It hurt me so much I bit my mouth to pieces.

This put me back into my spinal chair for another two months. I became very depressed and wondered if it was all worthwhile. I talked to my friends in this depressed state of mind and they insisted, "Fancy making a fuss over a sprained



*Dora in a hat competition in camp*

ankle, when you have come through the worst part of it!"

Everyone was very sweet and came to see me whenever they could. Mother carried on in her usual quiet way. The time came when I was allowed to get up once more, but mother would *not* put me in the garden. I had to be near the dining room window where she could keep an eye on me. When Daddy came in that night, he was very pleased to see me up.

I asked him, "Could I try to walk round the table please?"

"We can try, but don't do anything daft while I'm here."

So he and mother helped me to get on to my feet. I felt very shaky but kept saying to myself, "I *will* do it." I not only walked round the table but into the hall as well. Harry put his hands through the letter box and said, "I'm here." He came in, picked me up and carried me back to my chair. My parents were so pleased they were both nearly crying. I was so proud of myself I sat back and said, "I'll come and meet you next week, Dad."

*(To be continued)*

## Group Alterations

### New Officials:

#### BURNLEY AREA & ROSSENDALE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary:

JOHN B. SUTHREN, ESQ.,  
561 Brunshaw Road,  
Burnley, Lancs.

Hon. Treasurer:

REG. WHITELEY, ESQ.,  
557 Brunshaw Road,  
Burnley, Lancs.

Please note that all correspondence for the following Groups should be sent to the persons indicated:

#### KENFIG HILL & DISTRICT GROUP

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. A. REES,  
The Withins,  
South Cornelly,  
Nr. Pyle, Glam.

#### URMSTON & DISTRICT GROUP

Chairman:

MRS. E. HUGHES,  
1 Beechfield Avenue,  
Flixton, Urmston,  
Manchester.®

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### Classified Ads.

#### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

COLWYN BAY

COED-EMRYS PRIVATE HOTEL

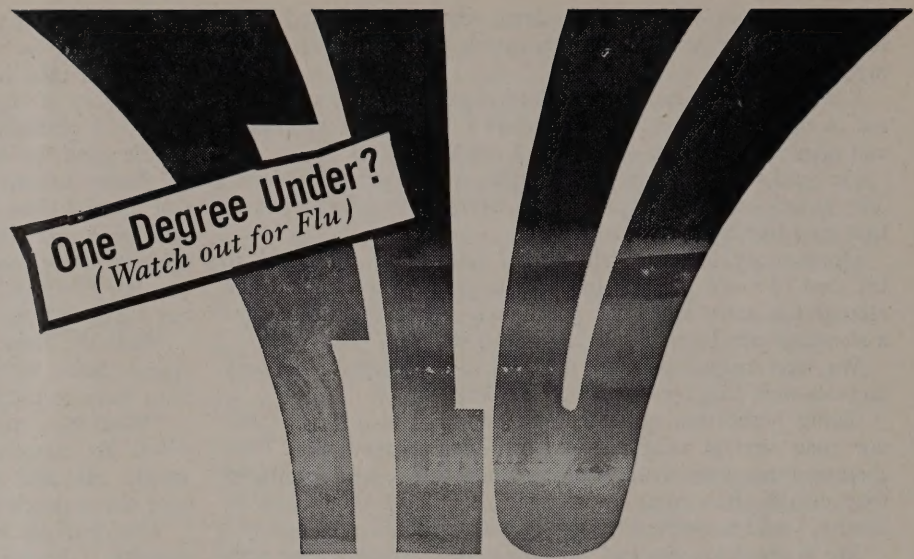
PHONE: 3292

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#### AMENDMENT

In the February issue of SPASTICS NEWS the terms quoted for Colwall Court should have read

3½ guineas  
as the weekly rate for children,  
and not 3 guineas as printed.

# N.S.S. Regions

## Disposition of the Groups

### Chief Regional Officer

(A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 28 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1)

### Eastern Region

(Harry G. Knight, 58 Park Road, Peterborough,

Northants. Tel: Peterborough 67045)

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society  
Corby and District Branch

Derby and District Branch of NSS

Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society

Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society  
Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society

Lincoln Branch

Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group

Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association  
Northampton and County Branch

Nottingham Friends of Spastics Group  
(Sub-Committee of Nottingham District Cripples Guild)

Peterborough and District Group

Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society  
Stamford Branch

### Midland Region

(Officer to be appointed in 1961)

Cannock Chase Spastic Association

Coventry and District Spastics Society

Dudley and District Spastic Group

Ludlow and District Spastics Society

North Staffordshire Spastic Association

Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group

Stafford and District Spastics Association

Worcester and District Branch

### North Region

(Roland J. F. Whyte, N.S.S. Trevelyan Chambers, 7 Boar Lane, Leeds, 1. Tel: Leeds 33933)

Barnsley and District Association

Bradford and District Branch

Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Society

Castleford and District Spastics Committee

Darlington and District Spastics Society

Dewsbury and District Spastics Society

Goole and District Spastics Association

Halifax and District Spastic Group

Hull Group, The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District

Leeds and District Spastics Society

Pontefract and District Spastics Society

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society

Sheffield and District Spastics Society

Sunderland and District Spastics Society

Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics

York and District Spastics Group

(Thos. H. Keighley, 42 Goldsworthy Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester)

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society

Blackburn and District Group

Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group

Bollington, Macclesfield & District Group

Bolton and District Group

Chester and District Spastics Association

Crewe and District Spastics Society

Crosby and District Spastics Society

Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society

Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society

Lancaster, Morecambe and District Group

Manchester and District Spastics Society

Oldham and District Spastic Society

Preston and District Group

Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society

Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society

Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society

Urmston and District Group

Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics

Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group

### Northern Home Counties Region

(Robert C. Lemarie, Woodlands, 1 Melbourne Road, Bushey, Herts. Tel: Bushey Heath 2758)

Bedford and District Branch of NSS

Bishop's Stortford Group, Herts Spastics Society

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society

Clacton and District Group

Colchester and District Group

East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society

East London Spastic Society

Epping Forest and District Branch of NSS Essex Group

Harlow and District Branch

Hatfield Group, Herts Spastics Society

Hemel Hempstead Group, Herts Spastics Society

Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics

Ilford and District Spastics Association

Luton and District Spastics Group

Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group

North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics

North-West London Group

Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society

Reading and District Spastics Welfare Society

Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society

Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society

South-West Middlesex Group

St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Walthamstow and District Spastics Society  
Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Welwyn Garden City and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Wycombe and District Spastics Society

### South-East Region

(Simon T. Langley, 137 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Tel: Tunbridge Wells 21980)

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastic Society

Brighton, Hove and District Branch

Central Surrey Group

Croydon and District Branch

East Sussex Group (Hastings and District)

Folkestone and District Branch of NSS  
Isle of Wight Group

Maidstone Area Spastic Group

Medway Towns Branch of NSS

North Hants and West Surrey Group

North Surrey Group (Kingston)

North-West Kent Spastic Group

North-West Surrey Group

Portsmouth and District Spastic Society  
Southampton and District Spastics

Association

South-East London Group

South-East Surrey (Redhill) Spastics Group

South London Group

South-West London and District Group

South-West Surrey Group

Thanet Group

Tunbridge Wells Area Group

West Kent Spastics Society—Incorporating Bromley and District Spastics Group

### Welsh Region (including Mon.)

(Brian Kingsley-Davies, Delfryn, Clevedon Avenue, Sully, Glam. Tel: Sully 384)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association

Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society

Conway and District Branch of NSS

Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society

Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society

Pontypridd and District Group of NSS

Swansea and District Spastics Association

### Western Region

(John J. Walsh, St. John House, Park Street, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: Taunton 81678)

Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association

Bristol Spastics Association

Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association

Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association

Swindon and District Spastic Society

Jersey Branch, Channel Islands.

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